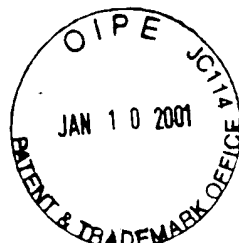
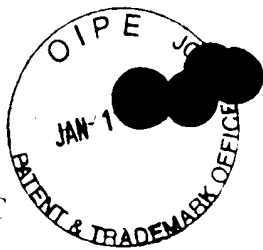


VANM190.001APC



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PCT/PTO 10 JAN 2001

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Lauber, E.) Group Art Unit Unknown
Appl. No. : PCT/BE99/00089)
Filed : July 9, 1999)
For : METHOD OF GENETIC)
MODIFICATION OF A WILD)
TYPE VIRAL SEQUENCE)
Examiner : Unknown)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to Examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, line 11, before the Field of the Invention, please insert --This is the U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. §371 of International Patent Application PCT/BE99/00089, filed July 9, 1999, which claims priority of European application EP 98870159.5, filed July 10, 1998--.

On page 2, line 7, please cancel the word "strategy" and substitute in its place --strategies--.

On page 3, line 10, before the word "resistance" and after the word "as", please insert --a--.

On page 3, line 18, please cancel the word "completely".

On page 3, line 19, after the word "mechanisms" and before the ".", please insert the word --completely--.